

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



[The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this Department.]

DEAR EDITOR: I want to thank you for THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING. I am a country nurse and would be very lonely if I had not the JOURNAL to keep me in touch with the nursing world.

In the April number there was a letter from R. D. Rider about male nurses. No doubt there are some young men who with good training would make excellent nurses, but is not R. D. Rider quite wrong when he says the female nurse does not as a rule render as efficient service in the operating-room because a woman does not make a good surgeon? It is surely not necessary to be a good surgeon in order to be a good operating-room assistant.

What does Mr. Rider mean when he asks, "But where is the physician or army officer who would consent to having his sister work in an army hospital?" Even if there were no nurses who were related to physicians or army officers, what would that have to do with it?

Mr. Rider thinks it would cut down family expenses to have a male nurse, on account of his strength, and on the ground that it would not be necessary to call the doctor for certain kinds of work. I have nursed in private families for some years and have never had to call the doctor in to do any of my work. As a rule, I think the gentle touch of a woman is more valuable to the sick than the greater strength of a man.

AUGUSTANA NURSE.

[We are inclined to think that our valued correspondent, Mr. Rider, made various statements which were quite wide of the mark. In stating that in the "one training-school for male nurses of any account in the United States the officials in accepting young men on probation do not inquire into their character and habits, as the majority of those of female training-schools do," he is certainly greatly in error.

We believe that there are certain cases for which a man is preferable to a woman nurse. We would like to suggest that nurses in general drop the anatomical terms "male" and "female" in speaking of themselves, and use the good social expressions, "men" and "women."—Ed.]

DEAR EDITOR: The action of the nurses in the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, as told in the public press and commented on in THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING, was so disgraceful that every true nurse must feel humiliated by it. No self-respecting servant ever leaves a position without giving due "notice." It would be considered dishonorable for her to do so. How much worse for a nurse!

The explanations of this act of perfidy which have appeared in lay columns do not mitigate, but rather make worse the proofs of unprofessional feeling on

the part of the nurses involved. No matter what their fancied grievances, nothing could excuse such betrayal of helpless patients.

It is surprising that anyone, even lay nursing papers, whose charity for low standards we all know well, can be found to take any attitude save that of condemnation towards nurses who would so disgrace their name. B.

[LETTERS to the Editor must be accompanied by the name in full and address of the writer, otherwise such communications cannot be recognized. The name need not appear in the JOURNAL unless so desired.—Ed.]



[THESE two reports came too late to go into their proper places.—Ed.]

REPORT OF THE VIRGINIA STATE NURSES' ASSOCIATION, MAY, 1903

THE bill of the Virginia State Nurses' Association was first introduced into the Senate, where it was readily passed. At the first reading in the House it was favorably reported, but on the second reading it was so strongly opposed that the bill was laid aside. Nothing daunted those so deeply interested, however, and they proceeded to work with renewed energy. On the following day Miss Cabaniss, president of the association, with fifty nurses, made a demonstration to the House of their earnestness and of the justness of their cause. The influence of several members of the House and the assistance of the attorney for the association secured the passing of the bill with the following amendment, "All nurses graduating before January, 1904, shall be exempt from State examination."

The bill then went back to the Senate and was unanimously passed, and will become a law as soon as the Governor affixes his signature, which we hope to have done in time to enable us to appoint an Examining Board at the annual meeting to be held May 18 and 19, 1903, at the University Hospital, Charlottesville, Va. [The bill was duly signed.—Ed.]

The association at this meeting will decide if nurses and physicians or nurses alone shall constitute this Board of Examiners.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE NURSES' ASSOCIATION

FIRST annual meeting, June 9-11, 1903:

Tuesday, 8 P.M.—Business meeting.

Wednesday, 9 A.M.—Business meeting.

Wednesday, 1.30 P.M.—Drive to Biltmore.

Wednesday, 7 P.M.—Business meeting.

Wednesday, 8.30 P.M.—Reception.

Thursday, 10 A.M.—Service in Trinity Church.

Thursday, 2 P.M.—Business meeting.

Thursday, 4.30 P.M.—Overlook Park.

President, M. L. Wyehe; first vice-president, Mary R. Batterbam; second vice-president, Mary Sturgeon; secretary, Anna Lee de Van; treasurer, M. Henderson.